

The Office has characterized the relationship between Group I and Group II as process and apparatus for its practice. Citing MPEP §806.05(e), the Office suggests that the process as claimed can be used in a "liquid crystal device having varied spacer distribution densities or a sealant set for a specified time period or a specific pressure to substrates that prevents substrate warping and defects to the substrates." However, the Office has failed to explain how the claimed process could be carried out using the alleged apparatus. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Requirement for Restriction is unsustainable, and it should therefore be withdrawn.

Most importantly, Applicants do not understand the Requirement for Restriction for the following reasons.

First, the Office has already thoroughly searched and issued a first Office Action on the claimed invention including broad embodiments thereof. Moreover, Groups I-II are classified in the same class 349, and share a common subclass 155. Therefore, the Office has not shown that a burden exists in searching the entire application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Requirement for Restriction is unsustainable, and it should therefore be withdrawn.

Second the Office has completely mischaracterized the invention as related to the claims. The Office has characterized Group I, Claims 1-13 and 18-24, as drawn to a method of manufacturing a liquid crystal device. Applicants respectfully point out that Claims 1-7 are drawn to a liquid crystal display device, Claims 8-13 are drawn to method of manufacturing a liquid crystal device, and Claims 14-17 are drawn to a liquid crystal display device.

Finally, Applicants note that MPEP §821.04 states, "if applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable

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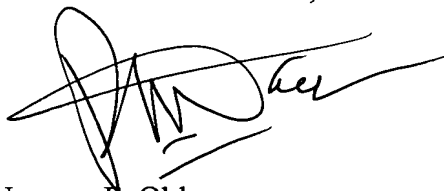
product claim will be rejoined." Applicants respectfully submit that should the elected group be found allowable, the non-elected claims should be rejoined.

Therefore, for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the Requirement for Restriction. Withdrawal of the Requirement for Restriction is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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